



MICHIGAN HEALTH & HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Advocating for hospitals and the patients they serve.

TO: Members of the House Health Policy Committee

FROM: Brian Peters, Senior Vice President, Advocacy

DATE: June 20, 2006

SUBJECT: **Senate Bill 403 – Licensure of Nutritionists and Dietitians**
MHA Position – Oppose

The Michigan Health & Hospital Association carefully scrutinizes legislation to create or change regulation and licensure of professions that impact our health care delivery system for the following reasons:

- Licensure and regulation limit entry into a profession which may restrict the pool of workers and therefore drive up costs.
- Government regulation is unnecessary unless there is a clear threat to the public's health or significant potential to improve quality through state regulation.
- Most health professions already have regulation or certification through national boards or professional associations.
- Licensure may decrease efficiency and flexibility in health care delivery systems.

The MHA is satisfied that these guidelines create an appropriate framework for scrutinizing the costs and benefits of occupational and professional regulation.

Based on our review of SB 403 and applying the above historic criteria, our members do not believe that the benefits of this bill outweigh the regulatory burdens and increased costs to taxpayers and health care consumers. For this reason, the MHA opposes the licensure and title protection of nutritionists and dietitians. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide feedback on this important issue.

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